



FIJI TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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42nd Independence Anniversary

Our Independence Anniversary is an occasion and an opportunity to reflect on our long hard road since 10th October 1970 as a nation and recommit ourselves to the ideals and principles of a truly free and democratic State.

“A land of freedom, hope and glory....” so says our National Anthem today, possess even a greater challenge for the nation. We are in the midst of rewriting our Constitution for the fourth time within this period and continue to strive to find the freedom that all citizens, as a birth right must have and enjoy. A right that is fundamental to human rights of all citizens. This freedom has been elusive for the past few years and is recognized as a violation by the international community. It is difficult therefore to pretend to celebrate as a nation, our history which has been so scarred with the overthrow of democracy, abrogation of our Constitutions, abuse of human rights including workers’ rights and the curtailment, if not denial of our freedom to choose our own Government in a democratic manner.

The FTUC calls upon all citizens to reflect on our history and recognize that we have a responsibility to ensure that the future cannot be more of the same. Only then can we and our children truly celebrate the glory and the hope in our Fiji. We need to commit ourselves to multiracialism and democracy just as trade unions have existed and persevered through many difficulties and have remained intact. If trade unions can exist and demonstrate that workers of all races can unite together for a common cause, we ask, why Fiji as a whole cannot.

We challenge all leaders to strive for this common cause.

Felix Anthony
National Secretary

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